

DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police announce results from 33rd Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

DOVER – Under mostly sunny skies, 165 young anglers and their families gathered Saturday, June 1, at three Delaware ponds for DNREC's Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police 33rd Annual Youth Fishing Tournament. All fish caught in the tournament were weighed and released, as young anglers learned a first-hand lesson in conservation.

The New Castle County location, Lums Pond near Bear, drew 77 young anglers casting lines; in Kent County, the Akridge Scout Reservation pond near Camden had 62 youngsters turn out; and in Sussex County, Ingrams Pond near Millsboro reeled in 26 participating young anglers.

When the day was done, 15-year-old Elise Britton of Middletown was the overall statewide winner, as well as the New Castle County winner, for the third year in a row, with a total weight of 24.17 pounds that included a 9.6-pound carp, the largest fish caught in this year's tournament.



New Castle County winners,
left to right: Statewide

winner and New Castle County winner Elise Britton of Middletown; Sean Jones, first place ages 12-15; Wesley Jones, first place ages 4-7; and Tyler Trzonkowski, first place ages 8-11. With them are DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Trainee Michael Lano, Officer 1st Class Thomas Ritterhoff, and Officer 1st Class Bryan Whittington at Lums Pond near Bear.

Other big fish included a 1.9 pound largemouth bass caught at the Akridge Scout Reservation by Kent County winner Kirra Noble of Frederica and a 0.71 pound largemouth bass caught at Ingrams Pond by Camrin Croney of Ocean View. The smallest fish of the day at each location were caught by: Morgan Stonebraker, with a 0.004 pound killifish from Lums Pond; Lyla Hughes, with a 0.04 pound bluegill from the Akridge Scout Reservation pond; and Cohen Betts, with a 0.02 pound bluegill from Ingrams Pond.

This year's county winners and the overall statewide winner will be invited to a special trophy presentation on Governor's Day, Thursday, July 25, at the 2019 Delaware State Fair in Harrington.

New Castle County winners

Other New Castle County winners at Lums Pond, by age group and total weight of fish caught, were:

Ages 4 through 7

First place – Wesley Jones, age 7, of Wyoming, 13.35 pounds

Second place – Landon Gonzalez, age 6, of Newark, 4.58 pounds
Third place – Mikey Hopkins, age 4, of New Castle, 1.09 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Tyler Trzonkowski, age 10, of Middletown, 2.62 pounds

Second place – Jonathon Pollock, age 11, of Middletown, 2.37 pounds

Third place – Jacob Halter, age 10, of Townsend, 1.84 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Sean Jones, age 12, of Wyoming, 5.72 pounds

Second place – Foster Wilkins, age 14, of Landenberg, Pa., 4.12 pounds

Third place – Jenaya Vann, age 14, of Bear, 3.41 pounds

Kent County winners



Kent County winner Kirra Noble of Frederica shows off her trophy and other prizes, with DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Officer 1st Class Nate Valenti and Officer 1st Class Shane Sapp at Akridge Scout Reservation pond near Camden.

At the Akridge Scout Reservation pond, Kirra Noble, age 9, of Frederica, was the day's overall winner with a total of 8.02

pounds of fish. Other Kent County winners were:

Ages 4 through 7

First place – Wyatt Meisinger, age 6, of Dover, 1.12 pounds

Second place – Brielle Douglas, age 7, of Middletown, 0.75 pounds

Third place – Collin Meisinger, age 5, of Dover, 0.65 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Elyse Fuller, age 11, of Camden, 2.13 pounds

Second place – Hayley Walgren, age 11, of Dover, 1.79 pounds

Third place – Amanda Lee, age 10, of Milford, 1.31 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Ethan Wong, age 15, of Frederica, 4.62 pounds

Second place – Dominic Garcia, age 14 of Smyrna, 4.52 pounds

Third place – Garrett Payne, age 14, of Dover, 4.28 pounds

Sussex County winners

At Ingrams Pond, Luke Hitchens, age 12, of Dagsboro, was the day's overall winner with a total of 5.39 pounds of fish. Other Sussex County winners were:



Sussex County winners, left to right: John Timmons V, first place ages 4-7; Cohen Betts, first place ages

8-11; Camrin Croney, first place ages 12-15; and Sussex winner Like Hitchens. With them is DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Cpl. Adam Roark at Ingrams Pond near Millsboro.

Ages 4 through 7

First place – John Timmons V, age 7, of Georgetown, 3.94 pounds

Second place – Landon Cathell, age 7, of Laurel, 1.53 pounds

Third place – Colton Perdue, age 6, of Selbyville, 1.41 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Cohen Betts, age 9, of Milton, 2.41 pounds

Second place – Tyler Tranfaglia, age 11, of Dagsboro, 2.02 pounds

Third place – Madison Culley, age 8, of Laurel, 1.80 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Camrin Croney, age 13, of Ocean View, 2.82 pounds

Second place – Ava Puddicombe, age 12, of Laurel, 2.23 pounds

Third place – Carmela Marzullo, age 13, of Georgetown, 0.42 pounds

Tournament winners received trophies and prizes, and all participants received prizes. This year's tournament sponsors and supporters included statewide donor Cabela's, and the following donors listed by county:

- New Castle County – Almars Outboards, Betts Garage, and Reynolds Auto Collision
- Kent County – Dover Walmart, Camden Walmart, Harrington

Food Lion, Milford Food Lion, Williamsville Country Store, and Haass' Family Butcher Shop

- Sussex County – Rick's Bait and Tackle, BJ's, Giant Food, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Dewey Beach Lions Club, Funland, Hook 'em and Cook 'em Bait and Tackle, Jungle Jim's, Lewes Harbour Marina, Lingo Marine, Old Inlet Bait and Tackle, Ice House Bait and Tackle, Shorts Marine, The Lead Pot, White Water Mountain, and A1 Sanitation

The Youth Fishing Tournament was established to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and to teach the catch-and-release approach to conservation. The tournament, held annually in June, is open to youth ages 4 through 15. For more information on the Youth Fishing Tournament, please call 302-739-9913 or visit [Youth Fishing Tournament](#).

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